

Submitter: Max Menchaca
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4084
To The House Committee on Revenue:

I'm writing today specifically around adding an amendment to end Oregon's property tax breaks for data centers. Oregon is facing a budget shortfall, and people all over the state are suffering from an affordability crisis preventing them from being able to attain even the basic essentials of life. One of these, of course, is their electricity. By providing tax breaks and other incentives to those who construct data centers in our state, we are only making this crisis worse.

Data centers provide uncertain benefits and clear, demonstrated harms. They are not job creators. Instead, they make big tech, private equity firms, and a few local insiders a lot of money. In exchange, centers siphoning water, take up land (often valuable farmland in our state), create noise and light pollution, and hike our electric bills.

Not only that, I'm concerned that providing tax breaks to giant corporations and wealthy investors deprives our schools and local budgets of much-needed tax revenue!

Our communities can't afford to continue to subsidize data centers that take so much and give so little. This year alone they are receiving \$457 million in property tax breaks in Oregon.

As a taxpayer, I'd much rather my tax dollar goes to helping my fellow citizens that need it, rather than line the pockets of those who take advantage of our communities.

Please amend HB 4084 to make data centers no longer eligible for the property tax breaks they are using – the Standard or Long Term Rural E-Zones or SIPS. Corporations and private equity firms like BlackRock will continue to build in Oregon as long as we let them. Our state deserves to define the terms! Even without these property tax breaks we'll still be providing a better tax environment than either of our neighboring west coast states.